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**From:** Ross, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98359CD1F66F46EC91D327E99A3C6909-ROSS, MARY]  
**Sent:** 4/18/2016 1:37:04 PM  
**To:** ORD-NCEA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9fd27be854b0475e8c7da44e626886aa-ORD-NCEA]  
**Subject:** FW: ORD/OSA Weekly April 18

FYI -

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**From:** Burke, Thomas  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 17, 2016 2:36 PM  
**To:** Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** ORD-Exec-Council-Directors <Execcouncildirectors@usepa.onmicrosoft.com>; ORD-Mgmt-Council <ORDMgmtCouncil@epa.gov>; ORD-IOAA-Front Office Support <ORDIOAASUPPORT@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Gibbons, Dayna <Gibbons.Dayna@epa.gov>; Zambrana, Jose <Zambrana.Jose@epa.gov>; Maloney, Kelsey <Maloney.Kelsey@epa.gov>; Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>; Matthews, Lisa <Matthews.Lisa@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: ORD/OSA Weekly April 18

Great work. Thanks to all.

Tom

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development  
202-564-6620  
[burke.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:burke.thomas@epa.gov)

On Apr 17, 2016, at 1:19 PM, Blackburn, Elizabeth <[Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov)> wrote:

Dear all

What a weekend for science, at least in our nation's capital. It seems like everyone with children converged on the convention center to inspire future scientists. Jim and the P3 staff and teams were prominently featured and there were two EPA booths teaching about air sensors and energy conservation. Well done everyone.

Please see Tom's weekly note to the Administrator below. Congrats on all the great work with states!

Liz

Liz Blackburn  
Chief of Staff  
EPA Office of Research and Development  
202-564-2192

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Burke, Thomas" <[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov](mailto:Burke.Thomas@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** April 17, 2016 at 12:45:02 PM EDT  
**To:** "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)>, "Meiburg, Stan" <[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov](mailto:Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov)>, "Fritz, Matthew" <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>, "Purchia, Liz" <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>, "Beauvais, Joel" <[Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov](mailto:Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov)>, "Jones, Jim" <[Jones.Jim@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.Jim@epa.gov)>, "McCabe, Janet" <[McCabe.Janet@epa.gov](mailto:McCabe.Janet@epa.gov)>, "Dunkin, Ann" <[Dunkin.Ann@epa.gov](mailto:Dunkin.Ann@epa.gov)>, "Vaught, Laura" <[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov](mailto:Vaught.Laura@epa.gov)>, "Distefano, Nichole" <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)>, "Rupp, Mark" <[Rupp.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Rupp.Mark@epa.gov)>, "Garbow, Avi" <[Garbow.Avi@epa.gov](mailto:Garbow.Avi@epa.gov)>, "Garvin, Shawn" <[garvin.shawn@epa.gov](mailto:garvin.shawn@epa.gov)>, "Pieh, Luseni" <[Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov](mailto:Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov)>, "Ragland, Micah" <[Ragland.Micah@epa.gov](mailto:Ragland.Micah@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Kavlock, Robert" <[Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov)>, "Kadeli, Lek" <[Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov](mailto:Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov)>, "Robbins, Chris" <[Robbins.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Robbins.Chris@epa.gov)>, "Blackburn, Elizabeth" <[Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>, "Deener, Kathleen" <[Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov)>, "Corona, Elizabeth" <[Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>, "Hubbard, Carolyn" <[Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov](mailto:Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov)>, "Kim, Hyon" <[Kim.Hyon@epa.gov](mailto:Kim.Hyon@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** ORD/OSA Weekly April 18

Administrator,

Thanks for all the great support at the ECOS meeting last week. Was a great meeting for ORD, advancing our work with the states, and strengthening our linkage with the public health community with the new MOA with ECOS and ASTHO. (Stan gave me the signing pen for the ORD time capsule I am thinking about...)

This will be a busy week for science integration and coordination. After good discussions about our public data access plan, we look forward to talking with you about our final submission. An interagency meeting has been set up by OSTP to bring this effort to completion.

We also are scheduling a meeting with CDC/ATSDR to coordinate our Flint efforts on sampling and communication regarding bottled water recommendations for pregnant women and children. We will be discussing results of the filter evaluation sampling and examining the scientific criteria for determining that filtered water is acceptable for drinking. On a related issue, I will participate in discussions with Joel, Cynthia, and others on the lead and copper rule.

Following up on our recent discussion, I will also meet with Jim and Joel to discuss how we can improve coordination of chemical risk assessments across the Agency.

### **Flint**

ORD's work in Flint continues—our team in Flint is installing automatic flushing devices on fire hydrants that will periodically release water from the distribution system at a low, controlled flow rate. Flushing will help reduce water age and keep the water flowing, thereby increasing chlorine residual. In addition, the EPA Task Force is working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Marc Edwards to implement the protocol for conducting a residential flushing plan. The intent of this program is to flush out any lead that may have built up in stagnant water from low water use in Flint homes.

### **Tire Crumb**

The tire crumb work continues to move ahead. The draft study plan has now been completed and is ready for peer review. As follow up to the April 7 call between EPA and the European Chemicals Agency, the European Chemicals Agency contacted the Fédération Internationale de Football Association to discuss the

US federal research strategy for tire crumb and a possible collaboration. EPA completed two successful webinars last week to share information about the Federal Research Action Plan, one for federal stakeholders on April 12<sup>th</sup> and one for the broader stakeholder group on April 14<sup>th</sup>. OLEM is gathering information from a sports field maintenance and operations manager and is scheduling visits to two tire processing plants in Maryland to view the full tire recycling process.

On Zika, it is interesting to note that one of the needs identified in Puerto Rico to address mosquito control is increased capacity for tire shredding.

### **USA Science and Engineering Festival Featuring People, Prosperity and the Planet**

This weekend ORD is sponsoring the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Sustainable Design Expo featuring the People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Program. Forty P3 university and college teams are gathering at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C., to showcase their innovative designs and solutions to real-world environmental and public health challenges. This year's teams are testing ideas such as repurposing chemical byproducts from the mining industry into new concrete that helps inhibit the corrosion of steel, and developing a food waste collection kiosk that will spur food waste to energy production in the local community.

### **Earth Day Activities**

ORD Labs are participating in a number of Earth Day activities, including a Sustainability Fair in Corvallis, Oregon, beautification activities in Gulf Breeze, FL, and several STEM activities in RTP, NC.

### **European Chemicals Agency Scientific Workshop**

April 19-20 ORD is participating in the European Chemical Agency's New Approach Methodologies in Regulatory Science Workshop. The workshop includes focused panel discussions and poster sessions pertaining to the application of 21<sup>st</sup> century toxicity data and approaches to human health and/or ecological assessment.

### **Last Week**

#### **ORD supporting Region 8 Assessment of Asbestos Exposure due to Forest Fires**

ORD is providing technical support to Region 8 in assessing risks associated with a potential forest fire at Libby asbestos site in Montana. The effort will use previously acquired data to model fate and transport of asbestos fibers that would emerge from fire involving the contaminated forest surrounding the Libby Operable Unit 3. Region 8 is following up on previous work that examined partitioning of amphibole asbestos between residual ash and flyash from combustion of contaminated forest floor material. The modeling results will assess potential impacts on firefighters and the surrounding communities.

#### **Environmental Research Institute of States**

We had a very successful meeting with the ERIS Board on April 12 in Nashville. We discussed how to keep maturing our partnership, science translation and communication, and planning for our next joint meeting. We're working with our state partners on two pilot efforts related to updating the 2008 wildfire smoke guide for public health officials and finalizing and communicating the Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool.

#### **The E-Enterprise Leadership Council**

The E-Enterprise Leadership Council met in Nashville on April 13 and gave enthusiastic support to all of

the State-EPA recommendations on efforts needed to prepare for the technological transformation underway in advanced monitoring. The next step is to present a staffing and management plan to the Executive Committee in May. This has been a very collaborative cross EPA and State effort.

### **Region 10 Superfund and Technology Liaison Receives Prestigious Award**

Kira Lynch, ORD's Superfund and Technology Liaison in Region 10, received the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists Cleary Award on April 14 at the National Press Club. The Cleary Award is given to an individual who is an outstanding performer in the management of environmental protection enterprises who has demonstrated exemplary professional conduct, personal leadership, originality in devising new environmental protection techniques and sensitivity and responsiveness to social, economic, and political factors in environmental protection." Kira received the award for her use of innovative technologies and creation of a toolbox that is making it easy for EPA staff to use a systems approach in their superfund clean-up efforts.

### **Publications**

ORD STAR grantee David Cwiertny is shaping and defining future research needs in the area of nano-based water treatment. In a newly published white paper affiliated with the National Nanotechnology Initiative, *Water Sustainability through Nanotechnology – Nanoscale Solutions for a Global-Scale Challenge*, two of Dr. Cwiertny's publications on electrospun nanofiber filters were cited. This intergovernmental Initiative seeks to aid the development of technological solutions that address stresses on the built water infrastructure and provide methods to promote sustainable use of

water resources in the future. Dr. Cwiertny's STAR grant focuses on the development and demonstration of a versatile, point-of-use water treatment technology using nanotechnology.

- National Nanotechnology Initiative - *Water Sustainability through Nanotechnology – Nanoscale Solutions for a Global-Scale Challenge*:  
<http://www.nano.gov/node/1580>.
- Journal of Hazardous Materials, "Synthesis and optimization of Ag–TiO<sub>2</sub> composite nanofibers for photocatalytic treatment of impaired water sources":  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304389415004495>
- Chemosphere, "Synthesis and optimization of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanofibers for chromate adsorption from contaminated water sources":  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0045653515300515>